project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 30.00 lakhs for North-Eastern/ Hilly/Tribal Areas States and Rs. 25.00 lakhs for other States. Besides Ministry of Food Processing Industry (MFPI) is implementing Plan Schemes for encouraging development of food processing industries including horticulture crops. The schemes includes (a) Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modemization of Food Processing for which assistance is given in the form of grant, subject to 25% of the plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.30% upto Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas, and (b) Scheme for Infrastructure Development for Food Park for which assistance is given in the form of grant subject 25% of the project cost in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 4 crores for provision of common facilities like cold storage, food testing and analysis laboratory, effluent treatment plant, processing facilities, power, water supply, etc.

Availability of vegetables

1192. SHRIMATI N.P DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that per-capita availability of vegetables in the country is just 190 grams per day against the required amount of 290 grams;

(b) the reasons for such a low availability of vegetables to the people in the country;

(c) the plans Government have drawn to increase the area covered under vegetable cultivation from the present 6.76 million hectares; and

(d) how Government are helping the farmers to upgrade their technical knowledge to get high yielding varieties of vegetables and innovative package practices of vegetables so that they remain fresh for a longer period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to higher perishability of vegetables produce is causing more loss while transporting/handling the produce at distance places. The production of vegetable Scrops is also less as compared to demand.

(c) For enhancing horticulture production including vegetables, two Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely National Horticulture Mission and Horticulture Technology Mission for North Eastern and Himalayan States, are being implemented in the country wherein assistance for area expansion under vegetable crops alongwith technical guidance for quality seed production to the growers is provided through extension programmes, which helps in enhancement of area, production and productivity of vegetable crops.

(d) Horticultural institutes under ICAR system and selected training institutions under State Governments,are conducting regular training programmes, seminars, symposiums in- collaboration with farmer's association, fertilizer companies and Government agencies to educate the farmers in improved production technologies, selection of pests and disease free planting material, integrated pest and disease management and virus identification. Field demonstrations are also conducted in farmers' fields for educating them on latest technologies. In addition, rural farmers, self help groups, rural women are getting trained in collaboration with NABARD in value addition to create employment generation and also to develop entrepreneurship among the farmers.

Co-operative Societies

1193. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cooperative societies functioning at present in the country, location-wise/State-wise;

(b) the details of financial grants provided to these societies during the last five years, year-wise/State-wise/cooperative society-wise; and

(c) the details of facilities being prpvided by these societies to the poor and agriculturists/farmers/artisans/labourers etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTTLAL BHURIA): (a) As per availbale information, total number of cooperative societies in the country is 5,42,566. A Statement indicating number of cooperative societies State-wise is enclosed (see below).

(b) and (c) The "Cooperative Societies" is a State Subject. The financial assistance is being provided by the respective State Governments to these